

Facts on the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine

When will we likely see this vaccine available in North Dakota?

[Johnson & Johnson](#) (J&J) (Janssen Pharmaceuticals) filed for Emergency Use Authorization through the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) on February 4, 2021. It's possible we may see the J&J vaccine available in March 2021. When this vaccine becomes available in our state, it will be included in the [NDDoH vaccine locator](#).

What type of vaccine is it?

The J&J COVID-19 vaccine is a non-replicating viral vector vaccine. This differs from the Pfizer & Moderna vaccines, which are both mRNA vaccines.

How does this vaccine work?

This vaccine [works](#) by using a viral vector, a harmless virus called adenovirus 26, which has been modified to include a gene that codes for the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein. Once the viral vector enters the human cell, it produces the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein and that triggers an immune response in our bodies. J&J used this same approach to make an Ebola vaccine that has been authorized for use by the European Medicines Agency.

How many doses does it require?

The J&J COVID-19 vaccine requires one dose. This differs from the Pfizer & Moderna vaccines that both require two doses to complete the series.

What is the effectiveness of this vaccine?

The COVID-19 vaccine made by J&J, which has not received FDA approval yet, was shown to be 72% effective in the U.S. & 66% effective globally at preventing moderate to severe COVID-19 in the clinical trial. This vaccine is also 85% effective at preventing severe disease & it offered complete protection against COVID-19-related hospitalization & death 28 days after vaccination.

How is this vaccine valuable to our fight against COVID-19?

Coronavirus has become the leading cause of death in the U.S. Although the J&J vaccine efficacy was variable globally, it will be incredibly valuable in our fight against COVID-19 because it has shown to have complete protection against COVID-19 related hospitalizations & deaths & only requires one dose.

Who will be the target population for this vaccine?

The J&J vaccine has been tested in people 18 years & older. For the time being, this vaccine won't be available for use in children & teens under 18. Additionally, it is too early to know what the recommendation will be for pregnant & lactating women regarding the J&J's vaccine.

What are the side effects from this vaccine?

The data we have thus far shows that fatigue, headache, myalgia, & injection site pain were noted in the vaccinated groups in clinical trial. The J&J vaccine has not been associated with anaphylaxis (a life-threatening allergic reaction) in clinical trials and the occurrence of anaphylaxis is expected to be rare following vaccination.

Were different races & ethnicities included in the J&J clinical trials?

J&J is reporting that 26% of its participants in the U.S. & 31% of its participants globally are from diverse backgrounds.

Were fetal cells used to create the vaccine?

The J&J vaccine did require the use of fetal cell cultures to develop and manufacture the vaccine. The [Catholic Church](#) and the [Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission](#) have both stated that receiving a COVID-19 vaccine that required fetal cell lines is morally acceptable.

References:

[Comparing three Covid-19 vaccines: Pfizer, Moderna, J&J \(statnews.com\)](#)

[Johnson & Johnson Announces Single-Shot Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate Met Primary Endpoints in Interim Analysis of its Phase 3 ENSEMBLE Trial | Johnson & Johnson \(jnj.com\)](#)